

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01126 250336Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 SS-15 /034 W
-----033276 250344Z /65

R 240426Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6548

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1126

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, TW, US
SUBJECT: PROTOCOL PLANNING

1. THE IMPENDING ELECTION AND INAUGURATION OF A NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PREMIER AND GOVERNOR AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF A CABINET RESHUFFLE ALL RAISE PROOCOL QUESTION WITH SUBSTANTIVE IMPLICATIONS. EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN LITTLE GUIDANCE OR PRECEDENT SO, UNLESS DEPARTMENT RECORDS ARGUE STRONGLY AGAINST, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING:

2. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION-CHIANG CHING-KUO SHOULD BE ELECTED PRESIDENT BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 20 AND HSIEH TUNG-MIN ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT ON MARCH 21. AT THAT TIME, WE RECOMMEND A LETTER TO CCK FROM THE PRESIDENT CONGRATULATING BOTH THE PREMIER AND GOVERNOR HSIEH ON THEIR ELECTION. SINCE CHIANG CHING-KUO WILL PLAY CRITICAL ROLE IN PERIOD WHEN WE EXPECT TO BE WORKING OUT POST-NORMALIZATION RELATIONS, RECOMMEND UWE USE LETTER TO ALLUDE TO THIS AND TO REMIND HIM THAT NORMAL-IZATION REMAINS OUR POLICY GOAL. SUGGEST LANGUAGE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE DEAR MR. PREMIER: I WISH TO OFFER YOU AND GOVERNOR HSIEH MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECENT ELECTION. AS YOU ASSUME YOUR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO COQRATE WITH YOU IN WORKING OUT WAYS OF
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CONTINUING THE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES AND OF SAFEGUARDING THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE ON TAIWAN. UNQUOTE. IN CONVEYING THIS MESSAGE TO THE PREMIER, THE AMBASSADOR WILL ADD A NOTE EXTENDING HIS PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS AND THOSE OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ON TAIWAN.

3. INAUGURATION: THE INAUGURATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 20 AND THE ROC CAN BE EXPECTED TO INVITE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. FOR THE LAST INAUGURATION IN 1972, MR. AND MRS. JOHN EISENHOWER HEADED THE AMERICAN DELEGATION. SOME OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO SENT SPECIAL DELEGATIONS, BUT MOST WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR AMBASSADORS. SINCE THE ROC WILL DRAW POLICY INFERENCES FROM THE LEVEL OF OUR REPRESENTATION, RECOMMEND THE PRESIDENT NOT SEND A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE BUT DESIGNATE THE AMBASSADOR TO ATTEND THE INAUGURATION IN THAT CAPACITY.

4. SELECTION OF A PREMIER- A NEW PREMIER SHOULD BE NOMINATED SOMETIME IN LATE MAY. UPON HIS CONFIRMATION BY THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN, WE SUGGEST THAT THE SECRETARY SEND A COURTESY MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS. WE WILL PASS ALONG OUR SUGGESTIONS ABOUT CONTENT SOMETIME CLOSER TO THE EVENT.

5. A NEW FOREIGN MINISTER-SHOULD A NEW FOREIGN MINISTER BE NAMED IN THE CABINET RESHUFFLE EXPECTED FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE SEND MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MINISTER. THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE NEED NOT INCLUDE ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE; ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT INCLUDE IN HIS LETTER CONFIDENTIAL

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A REFERENCE TO HIS LOOKING FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE BEGUN DURING HIS VISIT LAST FALL. THIS WOULD NOT COMMIT US TO ANYTHING BUT WOULD UNDERLINE THE POINT IN THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

6. A NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR-WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHEN HSIEH TUNG-MIN'S SUCCESSOR AS GOVERNOR OF TAIWAN WILL BE NAMED. WHEN HE IS, WE SUGGEST THAT CONGRATULATIONS BE EXTENDED IN AN INFORMAL NOTE FROM THE AMBASSADOR.

7. WHILE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THESE LETTERS WERE PUBLISHED, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO DO SO. RECOMMEND THEREFORE THAT IN DELIVERING THE VARIOUS MESSAGES WE FOLLOW THE USUAL PROCEDURE OF SAYING WE DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE PUBLIC BUT HAVE NO OBJECTION IF THE ROC DOES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FORECASTS, DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TAIPEI01126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780087-0346
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780213/aaaaaleu.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 54aab5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3478837
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROTOCOL PLANNING
TAGS: PDIP, TW, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54aab5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014